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Executive Registry

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20 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Congressman Thomas Ashley (D., Ohio)

1. Cord Meyer and John S. Warner visited with Congressman Ashley for approximately an hour on 20 December to discuss certain impressions Ashley had recorded in a draft memorandum and furnished to the Agency. His memorandum dealt with conditions of Radio Free Europe particularly in Munich and its relationship with RFE in New York.
2. On the whole the interview was extremely friendly and where there were erroneous impressions Cord Meyer was able to present the facts and in the problem areas the frank acknowledgment of the problems seemed to satisfy Ashley. He was extremely interested, however, in the welfare of RFE and appeared to wish to assure himself that reasonable supervision was being given to the entire operation. Specifically we discussed the [redacted] the cigarette problem, the headquarters-field relation and the union problem. In addition, we touched on the Fulton Lewis situation and his continuing attacks on RFE.
3. Ashley was appreciative of our taking the time to come down and discuss the matter and in response to a query said he would be delighted to meet with General Crittenberger at a mutually convenient time.
4. Ashley then raised the question of a joint committee for the Agency on intelligence matters and stated quite frankly he felt there was a great need for improvement and in effect that if there were a new Mansfield resolution that he would vote for it. Ashley stated he had

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heard Speaker Rayburn state that he, Rayburn, thought there was a great gap between the intelligence available to the Government and the Congress which needed such information as a basis on which it could legislate properly. Ashley was informed that we took no official position on the Mansfield resolution but certain of the arguments pro and con were discussed briefly. At another time it may be advisable to brief Ashley on our Subcommittee setup within the Congress. Ashley also commented that there was a great deal of interest in the Congress in the operation of RFE. It was suggested that if he heard of any moves as a result of Lewis' activities or otherwise on the part of various Congressmen to look into RFE would he advise us. He said he would be glad to do so.

(S)
JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

cc: DCI (For information only)

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DD/S

IO/ Cord Meyer thru DD/P

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